Growth of telecommunications system in Orissa

*60. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the State of Orissa the growth of telecommunications and postal services is lagging far behind in comparison to that in other states;

(b) whether Government will consider adequate allocation of funds to the State of Orissa for growth of telecommunications system and preparing a master plan with a view to bringing the State at par with other States; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Seventh Plan allocation for telecommunications with respect to the State of Orissa is only 1.1 per cent of the total Plan allocation for telecommunications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) TELECOMMNICATIONS

The growth of telecommunication network all over the country is linked to the demand. The demand for telecommunication services has been relatively less in Orissa as is evident from the waiting list which in Orissa is only 3993 as on 31-3-86 as compared to 985685 in the whole country.

POSTAL

No, Sir. It is not a fact that in Orissa growth of postal services is lagging far behind in comparison to other States. On the other hand, postal development in Orissa compares favourably with the country taken as a whole. Whereas in Orissa the average population served by a post office is 3498 and the average area is 20.65 sq. Kms. the corresponding figures for the country as a whole are 4730 and 21.86 sq. kms. respectively.

(b) Uniform guidelines have been drawn up for meeting the demand for telephones and building up the matching network for whole country. Funds required for this purpose so far as Orissa State is concerned will be made available.

(c) Expenditures of Telecommunication sector is incurred schemewise. Since the telecommunication services are provided as a network, which often spans more than one State, it is not possible to precisely delineate expenditure Statewise.

LPG cylinders

120. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) What is the quantity of LPG cylinders ordered unit-wise and state-wise with the 70 units who have obtained Explosives clearance and ISI Licences ;

(b) What is the quantity of LPG cylinders snpplied to oil companies unit-wise and State-wise by them; and

(c) whether it will be ensured at the time of placement of orders hencefforth that the requirement of LPG cylinders of a particular State will be met from within the State, provided the quality and the price are competitive and the shortfall, if any, met from the adjacent State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) and (b) For the year 1986-87 oil Companies have placed orders for LPG cylinders on 77 manufacturing units as per details given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Adoption of such a policy is not envisaged.